CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A printing process for obtaining patterns of nanometer and micrometer dimensions on a substrate, comprising the steps of sequentially:

forming a solution or suspension of an evaporable liquid and a printing material,

applying a layer of the solution or suspension to said substrate,

positioning, without applying pressure, of a stamp provided with relief patterns at a distance of 0 nm to 500 μm from the substrate with the relief patterns in contact with the layer of the solution or suspension,

evaporating only the evaporable liquid from said solution or suspension from between the substrate and the stamp without evaporating the printing material so as to draw the suspension or solution by capillarity to the relief patterns and deposit the printing material on the substrate in accordance with the relief patterns of the stamp, and

thereafter separating the stamp from the substrate and leaving the printing material on the substrate.

22. (currently amended) The process according to claim 21, wherein said printing material is chosen from the group consisting of soluble polymers or precursors of polymers.

23. (currently amended) The process according to claim 22, wherein said printing material is chosen from the group consisting of polyaniline, polyphenylene vinylene, poly(3-alkyl-thienyl) and mixtures thereof.

24. (currently amended) The process according to claim 21, wherein said printing material is chosen from the group consisting of tris-(quinoline) aluminum, coordination compounds, metallic clusters, rotaxanes, polythiophenes, phthalocyanines, and mixtures thereof.

25. (currently amended) The process according to claim 21, wherein said printing material is chosen from the group consisting of colloidal substances and nanoparticles.

26. (currently amended) The process according to claim 25, wherein said printing material is colloidal Au or Ag.

27. (currently amended) The process according to claim 21, wherein said printing material and/or said solution or suspension is chemically reactive with a surface of said substrate

and can produce corrosion, chemisorption, grafting or polymerization of the surface.

28. (previously presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein said distance is changed during imprinting.

29. (previously presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein said stamp has multiple protrusions of arbitrary shape and dimensions.

30. (currently amended) The process according to claim 21, wherein said stamp is a hard stamp, made of chromium, steel, silicon oxide, or a polymer like polymethyl methacrylate, or polycarbonate.

31. (currently amended) The process according to claim 21, wherein said stamp is a stamp made of elastomeric printing material ~~, preferably polydimethyl siloxane~~.

32. The process according to claim 21, wherein said stamp is formed by a thin film of material that floats on said solution.

33. (currently amended) The process according to claim 21, wherein ~~said evaporation step occurs~~ the evaporable liquid is evaporated from the suspension or solution at a temperature ~~in the interval~~ between −70 and 300 degrees Celsius.

34. (previously presented) The process according to claim 26, wherein said substrate has a surface area that is orders of magnitude larger than the dimensions of the relief patterns of the stamp.

35. (previously presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein said stamp is arranged in an inclined configuration with respect to a surface of said substrate, thus producing on the substrate patterns with a spatially variable thickness.

36. (previously presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein said solution contains multiple printing materials in the form of solutes, said solutes being suitable to precipitate selectively in different times, thus generating controlled nonuniformities of composition in the resulting patterns.

37. (previously presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein said solution contains imprinting materials in amounts suitable to react in reaction volumes on the order of magnitude of picoliters.

38 - 40. (canceled).

41. (new) The process defined in claim 31 wherein the printing material is polydimethyl siloxane.